



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

US helps establish six companies creating over 1000 new jobs

Over 1,000 new jobs and an estimated \$15 million in additional exports are the result of a project supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Six new companies—called e-BIZ centers and which provide high tech services to small and medium business—are now fully operational. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

“This project was designed to support Macedonia’s free market—and also to participate in it,” said U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic at an event held to showcase project achievements. “It supported investors whose enterprises have created jobs, increased the profit margins of their clients and helped them enter whole new markets.”

The e-BIZ Project developed partnerships with Macedonian entrepreneurs offering “high impact” information and communication technology solutions that significantly improved the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises. Some of the new services offered include e-commerce, computer-aided design and computer-aided modeling (CAD&CAM), e-learning and Supply Chain Management solutions.

The six e-BIZ Centers:

- The National Tourism Portal www.exploringmacedonia.com has more than 200,000 monthly visits and more than 160 tourism members.
- The Apparel Technology Center “New Trend” is used by 60% of the market,
- The Fashion Industry Portal www.fashionmk.com, has more than 80 members and 15.000 visitors a month.
- The Shoe Technology Center “ModEur” is used by 57% of the market.
- The Business Development Center at South East European University has the exclusive license for distributing Skill Soft on-line courses to five countries in the region.
- The Mechanical Engineering Systems Center of Excellence-CIRKO MES CE is expected to become a regional Supply Chain Management Center of Excellence.

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. Over 25 projects worth more than \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>